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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,594	03/17/2004	Takeshi Funahashi	Q80334	1915
23373	7590	11/14/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			AHMED, MOHAMED MAHMOUD	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3736		

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/801,594	FUNAHASHI, TAKESHI
	Examiner Mohamed Ahmed	Art Unit 3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/17/2004

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by De La Huerga USPN 6,346,886. (hereinafter De La Huerga)

1. A medical support system for supporting a medical care of a patient, comprising:
 - a wireless tag carried by the patient; (col. 6 ln. 1-38)
 - a medical information database operable to store medical information of the patient; and (col. 6 ln. 1-38)
 - a medical support apparatus operable to communicate with said wireless tag and said medical information database, said medical support apparatus comprising: (col. 16 ln. 17-40)
 - a patient ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a patient ID for identifying the patient from said wireless tag when the patient approached said medical support apparatus; (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

a suitability determination unit operable to refer to said medical information database and determine whether or not said medical support apparatus is suitable for the patient identified by the patient ID thus obtained; and (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

a warning unit operable to issue a warning to the patient when said suitability determination unit determined that said medical support apparatus was unsuitable for the patient. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

2. A medical support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wireless tag transmits the patient ID to said medical support apparatus using a radio wave that enables communication with said medical support apparatus only when said wireless tag was brought close to said medical support apparatus. (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

3. A medical support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said medical support apparatus further includes:

a setting information extraction unit operable to extract setting information related to setting of said medical support apparatus in accordance with the patient from said medical information of the patient stored in said medical information database, when said suitability determination unit determined that said medical support apparatus was suitable for the patient; and (col. 17 ln. 25-36)

a set unit operable to set said setting information thus extracted in said medical support apparatus. (col. 17 ln. 25-36)

4. A medical support system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said medical support apparatus is a radiography apparatus, and

 said setting information extraction unit extracts a condition of radiography for the patient from said medical information of the patient stored in said medical information database, when said suitability determination unit determined that said medical support apparatus was suitable for the patient. (col. 17 ln. 25-36)

5. A medical support system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the patient ID acquisition unit is provided on a platform of said radiography apparatus. (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

6. A medical support system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said medical support apparatus further includes:

 a setting information extraction unit operable to extract setting information related to setting of said medical support apparatus in accordance with the patient from said medical information of the patient stored in said medical information database, when said suitability determination unit determined said medical support apparatus was suitable; and (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

 a display unit operable to display said setting information thus extracted. (col. 17 ln. 49-53)

7. A medical support system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said medical support apparatus is a training apparatus for supporting rehabilitation, and

said setting information extraction unit extracts a menu of rehabilitation of the patient from said medical information of the patient stored in said medical information database, when said suitability determination unit determined that said medical support apparatus was suitable. (col. 16 ln. 17-40)

8. A medical support apparatus for supporting a medical care of a patient, comprising:

a patient ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a patient ID for identifying the patient from a wireless tag carried by the patient when the patient approached said medical support apparatus; (col. 6 ln. 1-38)

a suitability determination unit operable to refer to a medical information database that stores medical information of the patient and determine whether or not said medical support apparatus is suitable for the patient identified by the patient ID obtained by the patient ID acquisition unit; and (col. 17 ln. 23-36)

a warning unit operable to issue a warning to the patient when said suitability determination unit determined that said medical support apparatus was unsuitable for the patient. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

9. A medical support system for supporting a medical care of a patient, comprising:

a patient's wireless tag carried by the patient; (col. 6 ln. 1-38)
a diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag attached to a diagnosis/treatment member; (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

a medical information database operable to store medical information of the patient; and (col. 6 ln. 1-38)

a medical support apparatus operable to communicate with the patient's wireless tag, said diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag and said medical information database, said medical support apparatus comprising: (col. 16 ln. 18-40)

a patient ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a patient ID for identifying the patient from the patient's wireless tag when the patient approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently; (col. 6 ln. 1-38)

a diagnosis/treatment member ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a diagnosis/treatment member ID for identifying said diagnosis/treatment member from said diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag when said diagnosis/treatment member approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently; (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

a diagnosis/treatment member determination unit operable to refer to said medical information database and determine whether or not said diagnosis/treatment member identified by said diagnosis/treatment member ID obtained by said diagnosis/treatment member ID acquisition unit is suitable for the patient identified by the patient ID obtained by the patient ID acquisition unit; and (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

a warning unit operable to issue a warning to the patient when said diagnosis/treatment member determination unit determined that said diagnosis/treatment member was unsuitable. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

10. A medical support system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the patient's wireless tag

transmits the patient ID to said medical support apparatus using a radio wave that enables communication with said medical support apparatus only when the patient's wireless tag approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently. (col. 10 ln. 19-38)

11. A medical support system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag transmits said diagnosis/treatment member ID to said medical support apparatus using a radio wave that enables communication with said medical support apparatus only when said diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently. (col. 10 ln. 19-38)

12. A medical support system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a nurse's wireless tag held by a nurse, wherein said medical support apparatus further includes:
a nurse ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a nurse ID for identifying said nurse from said nurse's wireless tag when said nurse approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently; and
a nurse determination unit operable to refer to said medical information database and determine whether or not said nurse identified by said nurse ID obtained by said nurse ID acquisition unit is in charge of the patient identified by the patient ID obtained by the patient ID acquisition unit, and wherein
said warning unit issues said warning in a case where said nurse is not in charge of the patient. (col. 15 ln. 25-44)

13. A medical support system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said nurse's wireless tag transmits said nurse ID to said medical support apparatus using a radio waves that enables communication with said medical support apparatus only when said nurse's wireless tag approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently. (col. 15 ln. 25-44)

14. A medical support system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said diagnosis/treatment member is medicine,

 said diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag is attached to a holder of said medicine, and (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

 said warning unit issues said warning when said diagnosis/treatment member determination unit determined that said medicine was unsuitable for the patient. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

15. A medical support system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said medical information database stores a dosing schedule of said medicine to the patient and a dosing history containing dates and times at which said medicine was dosed to the patient to correspond to the patient, (col. 29 ln. 16-31)

 said medical support apparatus further includes a dosing timing determination unit operable to determine whether or not a dosing timing of said medicine identified by said diagnosis/treatment member ID obtained by said diagnosis/treatment member ID acquisition unit to the patient identified by the patient ID obtained by the patient ID

acquisition unit, based on said dosing schedule and said dosing history, and (col. 29 ln. 16-31)

 said warning unit issues said warning to the patient when said dosing timing determination unit determined that said dosing timing was improper. (col. 29 ln. 16-31)

16. A medical support system as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a medication error management database operable to store improper combinations of a disease/injury and said diagnosis/treatment member, wherein (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

 said medical support apparatus further includes a medication error determination unit operable to extract a disease/injury of the patient identified by the patient ID obtained by the patient ID acquisition unit from said medical information database and determine whether or not a combination of said disease/injury thus extracted and said diagnosis/treatment member identified by said diagnosis/treatment member ID obtained by said diagnosis/treatment member ID acquisition unit is improper by referring to said medication error management database, and wherein (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

 said warning unit issues said warning to the patient when said medication error determination unit determined said combination was improper. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

17. A medical support apparatus for supporting a medical care of a patient, comprising:
 a patient ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a patient ID for identifying the patient from a patient's wireless tag carried by the patient when the patient approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently; (col. 6 ln. 1-38)

a diagnosis/treatment member ID acquisition unit operable to obtain a diagnosis/treatment member ID for identifying a diagnosis/treatment member from a diagnosis/treatment member's wireless tag attached to said diagnosis/treatment member when said diagnosis/treatment member approached said medical support apparatus sufficiently; (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

a diagnosis/treatment member determination unit operable to refer to a medical information database that stores medical information of the patient and determine whether or not said diagnosis/treatment member identified by said diagnosis/treatment member ID thus obtained is suitable for the patient identified by the patient ID thus obtained; and (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

a warning unit operable to issue a warning to the patient when said diagnosis/treatment member determination unit determined that said diagnosis/treatment member was unsuitable for the patient. (col. 17 ln. 37-48)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed Ahmed whose telephone number is 571-272-1537. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mohamed Ahmed
Examiner
Art Unit 3736



Mike Astorino
October 27, 2006
Art unit 3736